

211 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET (House)
Jeannette
Westmoreland County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6139

HABS
PA
65-JEAN,
8-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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ADDENDUM TO:
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

211 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET (HOUSE)

HABS No. PA-6139

- LOCATION: 211 South Seventh Street, Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania
- SIGNIFICANCE: A high concentration of window, tableware, bottle and specialty glass plants distinguished Jeannette as "The Glass City" early in its history. Significant housing stock consists of company-built brick row and detached double houses, and several privately constructed dwellings.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Charles Altman, listed in the tax records as a plumber, bought two lots along Seventh Avenue in 1901 and 1902. He was the third owner of the properties since H. Sellers McKee initially sold them in 1889. By 1904, when the improvements first appear on the tax rolls, Altman had built a brick store and dwelling. Maps list the business alternately as hardware and plumbing while it belonged to Altman. The rear building is also shown as a plumber's shop. Between 1907 and 1909 Altman also operated a skating rink on the adjacent lot but this burned before 1910. Census records show that the Altman family (Charles, his wife Mary, and their five young children) lived above the store in 1910. Two years later, the Altmans lost the property through bankruptcy. After a short interim ownership, Solomon Gross, a shoemaker who rented a shop at 628 Clay Avenue, purchased the property. A mission was operating in the building in 1916, but after the Gross family moved in the building quickly changed to residential use.

Solomon Gross immigrated to the United States from Russia, established himself, and then sent for his wife Anna and their four young children. The couple had five more children in this country. They originally lived in a house on South Fourth Street. The Gross family was instrumental in building a synagogue in Jeannette and prior to that held Friday night services in the front parlor of their home. Esther and Joseph Glatsky, the Gross's daughter and son-in-law, now live in the house. The rear building was lived in for a short time by Solomon Gross's sister-in-law and was then used for some time as a rental unit.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

This rectangular plan, two-story commercial and residential building is now used as a private house. The Seventh Street and alley behind Clay Avenue sides of the building have a yellow brick veneer while red brick clads the other two sides. All sides have colored mortar to match their respective color of brick. A wood band with end brackets defines the division between the former storefront and the residential floor above. The cornice is acknowledged with four slightly corbelled brick courses. The store space was divided into a parlor, chamber, dining room, and a kitchen with side pantry and bath. A one-story wood-frame, gable-roofed cottage with shed side additions stands at the rear of the lot.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Insurance Maps of Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1905, 1910, 1916, 1925.

Deed Books. Record of Deeds, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. 172/181, 323/128, 344/286, 446/18, 520/43, 518/567, 565/514, 1526/145, 2508/365.

City Directories, 1897, 1913, 1923, 1928, 1948, 1960.

Tax Assessment Books. Westmoreland County Tax Assessment Office, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1910.

Joseph and Esther (Gross) Glatsky, Lynda Wood, residents 211 S. Seventh St. and their daughter, August 7, 1990.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

In February 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HABS and HAER undertook a comprehensive documentation of Jeannette, documenting industries, housing and cultural institutions.